

to benefit from developing friendly and good-neighborly relations. Turkey and Greece have to overcome the cycle of conflict into which they have been locked. The failure to settle the existing problems creates an environment conducive to the eruption of new crises. This vicious circle must be broken at some point. The leaders of both countries are faced with a historic responsibility to establish a climate of mutual confidence, to give a new structure to their bilateral relations which would be free of problems, and thus open a brand new chapter in the Turkish-Greek relations. Turkey is ready and determined to do her utmost in that regard. I believe that the Greek leaders also have the necessary political will to live up to this historic responsibility.

"The current problems between the two countries must be taken up with a new and realistic approach. By isolating them from the emotions stemming from history and the chains imposed by short-term temporary considerations, our ultimate goal should be to bring comprehensive and lasting solutions to all the differences and problems between the two sides, especially those related to the Aegean Sea. An eventual settlement of the Aegean issues will only be viable and lasting if it is built on the fundamental rights and legitimate interests of both countries. For that reason, we should discuss our differences on the basis of mutual respect and with a willingness to reach a compromise.

"Turkey is a law-abiding country. In keeping with international law, she has always respected the territorial integrity and the inviolability of borders of all her neighbors, including Greece. In a similar vein, Turkey harbors no intention towards altering the status quo in the Aegean through unilateral steps and to make gains by de facto actions. An essential aspect of Turkey's position on the Aegean issues is respect for the status quo in the Aegean which was established through international agreements. These are the basic principles defining Turkey's approach to both her relations with Greece and the matters related to the Aegean. We have the right to expect Greece to display the same understanding and approach. If Greece also adopts these principles, it will be much easier to reach mutually acceptable solutions than is generally thought. In this spirit, Turkey wants to see all disputes pertaining to the Aegean settled through peaceful means in accordance with international law. She stands ready for such a settlement.

"I am therefore calling on Greece to enter into negotiations without preconditions with a view to settling all the Aegean questions as a whole.

"The search for a comprehensive and lasting solution will be conducted on the basis of respect for international law and the international agreements establishing the status quo in the Aegean. The talks that could be started on an exploratory basis shall not prejudice the respective positions of both sides regarding the substance of the issues.

"When it comes to peaceful means of settlement which would be appropriate to the special nature of the Aegean questions, Turkey does not rule out from the outset any method based on mutual acceptance. We have no prejudices in this respect. Accordingly, we are prepared to discuss with good-will appropriate third party methods of settlement. The form, conditions and legal requirements of such methods can be taken up in detail in the course of the talks.

"The fundamental aim of such a peace process would be to resolve the differences that emerged after the historic compromise brought about by Atatürk and Venizelos. It is, therefore, essential for the two parties to rise to the occasion and take utmost care to avoid being tempted by petty political gains

and a dangerous opportunism, if the peace process is to succeed.

"Concurrently with the initiation of a process of peaceful settlement aimed at bringing a comprehensive and lasting solution to the Aegean disputes, Turkey is also ready to start talks on the conclusion of a political document/declaration containing the basic principals that will govern the relations between the two countries or an agreement of friendship and cooperation. Such a political framework agreement, in addition to the fundamental principles on which the relations will be based, may also specify the avenues of cooperation as well as the procedures and settlement methods to be applied in case of the emergence of differences.

"Likewise, simultaneously with this process, I also propose to start talks in this transitional period with a view to bringing about a swift agreement between the two countries on a comprehensive set of confidence building measures related to military activities.

"Once the process of peaceful settlement is thus initiated, the two sides will naturally have to avoid unilateral steps and actions that could increase tension.

"I am proposing to Greece to engage in a comprehensive process of peaceful settlement that will not exclude from the beginning any method of settlement including third party arbitration. This will make an immense contribution to the strengthening of peace and stability in our region. Similarly, bringing a comprehensive solution to the Aegean questions will also contribute to the settlement of other questions in eastern Mediterranean on their own merits and within their own parameters. As our Greek friends frequently say, "actions speak louder than words." I, therefore, propose action, not words.

"I sincerely hope that Greece will give due consideration to our call for a peaceful settlement based on international law and legitimacy and will not let this historic opportunity slip away. This process may require a period of reflection and preparation. Whenever they respond to our proposal positively and are ready to engage in such a process, Turkey will also be ready.

"I am sure that our two nations living across each other along the shores of the Aegean do not want tension between them. They do not want mutual enmity. What they do want is peace, friendship and cooperation. I believe that as two nations with deep roots in history, the Turkish and Greek peoples deserve them.

"The late President Turgut Ozal, in a speech during a 1985 visit to the United States, stressed the need for such a compromise and said that we owed this to the future generations. I believe that we owe this not only to the future generations, but also to the present generation. History never forgives those who shrink from their responsibility."

#### TRIBUTE TO 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF APOLLO CLUB MALE CHORUS OF MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 27, 1996

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the prestigious history and legacy of excellence for more than a century of the Apollo Club Male Chorus of Minneapolis, MN.

Just last year, the Apollo Club celebrated 100 years of truly superior musical perform-

ances. This marvelous chorus of amateur musicians exemplifies the spirit that makes our country great—friends from all walks of life, gathering outside of their daily and professional lives to fashion a powerful bond made possible only by a common, shared goal in which the group takes precedence over the individual.

The members of the Apollo Chorus have proven for more than 100 years what can be accomplished through a strong work ethic, teamwork and a commitment to excellence.

The chorus has sung the works of history's greatest composers—Bach, Beethoven, Mozart, and others—all around our great Nation as well as overseas, wowing audiences with its unique, full, and mellow sounds.

Mr. Speaker, from its birthplace at the home of Col. Charles McC. Reeve on the south shore of Lake Harriet in Minneapolis, the chorus has graced a global stage over the years which has included performances at President Eisenhower's inaugural in 1957, the World's Fair in Brussels in 1958, the memorial atop the sunken Battleship *Arizona* at the Pearl Harbor commemorative ceremony in 1985 and international festivals from Wales to Nancy, France.

Among its many awards and honors, the Apollo Male Chorus won second place at the renowned Eisteddfod Choral Festival in 1982. But despite the chorus' success in musical competition, the Apollo Club's real focus has been on moving people with their special music, and educating audiences about the choral style they practice so eloquently.

Mr. Speaker, the members of the Apollo Chorus through the years have been true pioneers of choral song. Audiences swing and sing to the Apollo's international collection of rhythms.

In Greek mythology, Apollo stood for clarity, order, and harmony. In a world that too often leaves us stunned because of its chaos and discord, the Apollo Club delivers a much-needed message of peace and togetherness. Today we thank all the club's singers, leaders, officers, and special musical guests for their gift of beautiful music and extraordinary harmony.

Today, we salute the Apollo Club Male Chorus of Minneapolis for a century of wonderful entertainment and we honor this outstanding group for the joy its members have brought to our lives. The people of Minnesota are proud of the Apollo Club Male Chorus, and we wish them many more years of success.

#### INDIAN PREMIER SHRUGS OFF SCANDAL

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 27, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I insert for the RECORD a recent New York Times article regarding the latest corruption scandal in India. The article makes plain that though it is an ostensible democracy, India's system is rotten to the core. Isn't it time the United States stops dumping American taxpayer money into this black hole?